

Bethanechol

Urecholine® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Bethanechol is used to cause constriction of the bladder to help animals that have difficulty urinating.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Bethanechol should not be used in animals who have stones blocking their bladder, or if they have had recent bladder surgery.
- This drug should also not be used in animals that have a stomach or intestinal obstruction.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- When given orally, bethanechol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite and increased drooling. In very high oral doses or after injection, bethanechol may cause heart and breathing problems.

How Should It Be Given?

- Bethanechol should be given on an empty stomach unless otherwise instructed.
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses, consult your veterinarian or pharmacist, who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication, you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication, so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats usually receive this drug orally three times daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Bethanechol should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Bethanechol normally has a slight fishy odor; this does not mean that the drug has gone bad.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook